

ABOU BEN ADHEM

For TTBB Chorus and Piano

Poem by

LEIGH HUNT

Music by

BRUCE TRINKLEY

About Ben Adhem

*Abou Ben Adhem awoke one night from a deep dream of peace,
And saw in his room An angel writing in a book of gold:
Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem bold,
And to the presence in the room he said,
"What writest thou?" The vision raised its head,
And with a look made of all sweet accord,
Answered, "The names of those who love the Lord."
"And is mine one?" said Abou. "Nay, not so,"
Replied the angel. Abou spoke more low,
But cheerly still; and said, "I pray thee, then,
Write me as one that loves his fellow men."*

*The angel wrote, and vanished. The next night
It came again with a great awakening light,
And showed the names whom love of God had blest,
And lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest.*

Leigh Hunt (1784-1859) was an English poet and essayist. His poem *About Ben Adhem* is a prime example of Romantic Orientalism and is noted for its non-stereotypical depiction of an Arab, showing a liberal attitude for its time. Hunt evokes a vision of an angel appearing to Abou Ben Adhem. In the poem Hunt asserts that true worship consists of the acts of love and service that one shows one's fellow human beings. Abou Ben Adhem may have been based on the ascetic Sufi mystic Ibrahim bin Adham.

The work is dedicated to the memory of Bailey Harvey (1906-1991), conductor of the Columbia University Glee Club from 1952 to 1969 and my mentor in all things musical.

About Ben Adhem

Leigh Hunt (1784-1859)

For Men's Chorus and Piano

Bruce Trinkley

Andante maestoso $\text{♩} = 72$

Tenor 1

Tenor 2

Bass 1

Bass 2

Piano

mp *legato* *cresc.*

p *legato* *cresc.*

A - bou Ben Ad - hem

A - bou Ben Ad - hem

p *sonore* *cresc. poco a poco*

con pedale

5

f *legato* *mf* *espressivo* *p*

A - bou Ben Ad - hem a - woke one night from a deep dream of peace,

mf *espressivo* *p*

a - woke one night from a deep dream of peace,

mf *espressivo* *p*

a - woke one night from a deep dream of peace,

mf *legato* *cresc.* *mf* *espressivo* *p*

A - bou Ben Ad - hem A - bou Ben Ad - hem a - woke one night from a deep dream of peace,

5

f (Double voices if needed)

9 *poco agitato* *calmato*

8 — And saw in his room An an - gel writ - ing in a book of gold: _____ Ex -

poco agitato *calmato*

8 — And saw in his room An an - gel writ - ing in a book of gold: _____ Ex -

poco agitato *calmato*

8 — And saw in his room An an - gel writ - ing in a book of gold: _____ Ex -

poco agitato *calmato*

8 — And saw in his room An an - gel writ - ing in a book of gold: _____ Ex -

9 *pp una corda* *delicato*

12 *cresc.*

8 ceed - ing peace had made Ben Ad - hem bold, And to the

cresc.

8 ceed - ing peace had made Ben Ad - hem bold, And to the

cresc.

8 ceed - ing peace had made Ben Ad - hem bold, And to the

cresc.

8 ceed - ing peace had made Ben Ad - hem bold, And to the

12 *p tre corda* *cresc.*

4

15 *f* *ritard.* *mp*

pres - ence in the room he said, "What

pres - ence in the room he said, "What

pres - ence in the room he said, "What

pres - ence in the room he said, "What

15 *f* *ritard.* *mp*

pres - ence in the room he said, "What

pres - ence in the room he said, "What

pres - ence in the room he said, "What

pres - ence in the room he said, "What

19 **Andante maestoso** $\text{♩} = 72$

writ - est thou?"

writ - est thou?"

writ - est thou?" The vis - ion raised its head, And with a look made of all sweet ac - cord,

writ - est thou?" The vis - ion raised its head, And with a look made of all sweet ac - cord,

19

23 *mp*

"The names of those who love the Lord." _____

mp

"The names of those who love the Lord." _____

mf *dim.* *mp*

An - swered, _____ he an - swered, "And is

dim. *mp*

he an - swered, "And is

23 *mf* *dim.* *mp*

27 *p* *espressivo*

"Nay, not so," _____ Re - plied the an - gel.

mf *dim.* *mp*

mine one?" _____ said A - bou. _____

mf *dim.* *mp*

mine one?" _____ said A - bou. _____

27 *p*

31 *mp* *p* *ritard.* *pp*

A-bou spoke more low, ___ But cheer-ly still; and said, ___ "I

pp

"I

pp

"I

31 *espressivo* *ritard.*

mp *p dim.*

35 *a tempo* *cresc. poco a poco* *mp*

pray thee, then, Write me as one that loves ___ his fel - low

cresc. poco a poco

pray thee, then, Write me as one that loves ___ his fel - low

cresc. poco a poco

pray thee, then, Write me as one that loves ___ his fel - low

mf

his fel - low

35 *a tempo* *pp dolce* *cresc. poco a poco*

38 *f* *mf*

men." *f* *mf*

men, that loves his fel - low men, his fel - low men." The an - gel wrote, and

men, fel - low men, that loves his fel - low men." The an - gel wrote, and

men, fel - low men, that loves his fel - low men."

38 *f* *mf*

42 *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

The next night It came a - gain with a

dim. *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

van - ished. The next night It came a - gain with a

dim. *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

van - ished. The next night It

mp *cresc. poco a poco*

The next night It

42 *dim.* *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

46

great ____ a-wak - en-ing light, ____ And showed the names ____ whom love of God had

great ____ a-wak - en-ing light, ____ And showed the names ____ whom love of God had

came ____ with a great a - wak - en-ing light, And showed the names ____ whom love of God had

came ____ with a great a - wak - en-ing light, And showed the names ____ whom love of God had

46

ff

50

non. dim. *poco agitato*

blest, ____ And lo! Ben Ad - hem's name led

non. dim. *poco agitato*

blest, ____ And lo! Ben Ad - hem's name led

non. dim. *poco agitato*

blest, had blest, And lo! Ben Ad - hem's name led

non. dim. *poco agitato*

blest, had blest, And lo! Ben Ad - hem's name led

50

55

all the rest. _____ led all the rest. _____

all the rest. _____ led all the rest. _____

all the rest. _____ led all the rest. _____

all the rest. _____ led all the rest. _____

55

sonore

60

poco ritard.

60

poco ritard.